

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An orthodontic bracket comprising:
 - a base firmly attachable directly or indirectly to teeth surfaces;
 - a bracket main body equipped on one side of the base;
 - an arch wire slot shaped ~~in~~ as a groove along a mesiodistal direction in the bracket main body, enabling-operative to support an arch wire therein;
 - a substantially belt-like clip curved substantially in a U-shape as coveringto cover at least one part of ~~an opposite side to the base in the arch wire slot~~ that opposes the base, the clip having a catching end portion, at an upper end part of the clip, for creepingoperative to creep under a cover portion supported by the bracket main body ~~at an upper end part thereof~~, and a recess portion, at the upper end part of the clip, for catchingoperative to catch a clip release tool for releasing the clip ~~at the upper end part thereof~~; and
 - a guide portion formed in at least one of the bracket main body and the base, the guide portion provided-and along a tooth axial direction crossing with the arch wire slot, enabling-the guide portion operative to guide the clip; and
 - a middle groove, formed on the bracket main body at a middle area thereof along a direction perpendicular to the mesiodistal direction.

2. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 1, wherein the recess portion is a concave portion which does not pass through the clip ~~along in a~~ thickness direction.

3. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 1, wherein the recess portion is a cut-and-rising portion ~~where the clip rises along thickness in a direction separating~~ comprising a convex portion that protrudes from an outer surface of the clip in a direction facing away from the bracket main body.

4. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 3, wherein the ~~recess portion is the cut-and-rising portion where one side of a slit as a boundary~~ convex portion is formed at an edge of the upper end part of the clip rises along thickness in a direction separating from the bracket main body.

5. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 3, wherein the ~~recess~~ convex portion is formed at an end part of the clip.

6. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 5, wherein the ~~recess~~ convex portion is shaped substantially in a half-spherical dome.

7. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 65, wherein the ~~recess~~convex portion has a cutout substantially in a V-shape at a flat ~~and~~ end part thereof.

8. (currently amended) An orthodontic bracket comprising:

- a base firmly attachable directly or indirectly to teeth surfaces;
- a bracket main body equipped on one side of the base;
- an arch wire slot shaped ~~in as~~ a groove along a mesiodistal direction in the bracket main body, enabling operative to support an arch wire therein;
- a substantially belt-like clip curved substantially in a U-shape ~~as covering~~to cover at least one part of ~~an opposite side to the base in~~ the arch wire slot that opposes the base, the clip having a catching end portion, at an upper end part of the clip, for creeping~~operative to creep~~ under a cover portion ~~supported by~~of the bracket main body, ~~at an upper end part thereof~~ and a catching cutout portion, in the upper end part of the clip, substantially in a V-shape for catching a clip release tool for releasing the clip ~~at the upper end part thereof; and~~
- a guide portion formed in at least one of the bracket main body and the base, the guide portion provided~~and~~ along a tooth axial direction crossing with the arch wire slot, enabling the guide portion operative to guide the clip; and
- a middle groove, formed on the bracket main body at a middle area thereof along a direction perpendicular to the mesiodistal direction.

9. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 1, wherein the clip has a contacting portion and the bracket main body has a receiving portion ~~enabling~~ operative to contact to the contacting portion, and wherein when the clip is released from the bracket main body, the contacting portion contacts to the receiving portion, thereby ~~enabling to regulate~~ regulating a ~~the~~ releasing position of the clip from the bracket main body.

10. (currently amended) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 8, wherein the clip has a contacting portion and the bracket main body has a receiving portion ~~enabling~~ operative to contact to the contacting portion, and wherein when the clip is released from the bracket main body, the contacting portion contacts to the receiving portion, thereby ~~enabling to regulate~~ regulating a ~~the~~ releasing position of the clip from the bracket main body.

11. (withdrawn) A clip release tool for releasing a clip from a bracket main body of an orthodontic bracket, the orthodontic bracket comprising a base firmly attachable directly or indirectly to teeth surfaces, a bracket main body equipped on one side of the base, an arch wire slot shaped in groove along mesiodistal direction in the bracket main body, enabling to support an arch wire therein, a substantially belt-like clip curved substantially in U-shape as covering at least one part of an opposite side to the base in the arch wire slot, the clip having a catching end portion for creeping under a cover portion supported by the bracket main body at an upper end part thereof and a recess portion or a substantially V-shaped catching cutout portion for catching a clip release tool for releasing the clip at the upper end part thereof, and a guide portion formed

in at least one of the bracket main body and the base, and along a tooth axial direction crossing with the arch wire slot, enabling to guide the clip, the clip release tool comprising:

a first projection and a second projection which are arranged substantially in V-shape, wherein the first projection enables to catch the recess portion or the substantially V-shaped catching cutout portion of the clip, and the second projection regulates the engagement of the first projection with the recess portion or the catching cutout portion, while pressing down the clip to prevent the clip from deformation of the clip.

12. (new) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 1, where the cut-and-rising portion also comprises a concave portion connected to the convex portion.

13. (new) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cover portion does not cover the recess portion.

14. (new) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 1, wherein a wall portion is formed at an edge of the middle groove, such that the wall portion contacts the clip in the releasing position.

15. (new) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 8, wherein a wall portion is formed at an edge of the middle groove, such that the wall portion contacts the clip in the releasing position.

16. (new) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 8, wherein the catching cutout portion extends from an edge of the upper end part of the clip.

17. (new) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 1, where the clip does not come into contact with the bracket main body before moving the clip to a releasing position.

18. (new) The orthodontic bracket as set forth in claim 8, where the clip does not come into contact with the bracket main body before moving the clip to a releasing position.